MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It has been explained that merchants who have been punished only for simple technical offences need not be disqualified from continuing as ration distributors.

(*c*) The reason is stated in the Press Note dated the 27th June 1946, a copy of which is placed on the Secretary's table.

Ration Cards in Mavelikara taluk.

134. *MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: Will the Government be pleased to state whether ration is refused to the labourers in certain pakuthies, on account of the fact that they go for harvests and thus they get paddy?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No.

In the case of labourers who get wages in kind during harvests, the Proverthicars concerned certify in the applications for ration cards of such persons that they may not require ration for a certain period. This fact is noted in their ration cards also and the corresponding coupons are cancelled. This is done consistent with the rationing rules in force.

Ration Cards.

135. *MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that weighed with them to reduce the minimum number of ration cards to be registered with each retail food grain merchant as per the original rules from 200 to 100?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It was found that the insistence on the registration by a retail dealer of a minimum of 200 cards, especially in interior areas, would result in the elimination of a large number of retail ration distributors thereby occasioning considerable inconvenience to card holders.

Food Grains.

136. *MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of rice, paddy and other food grains procured by Travancore from other Provinces and from overseas for the first half of 1946; and

(*b*) the quantity of rice, paddy and other food grains which are expected to arrive from other Provinces and from overseas for the second half of 1946?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) The quantity of rice and other food grains procured for the State till the 30th of June 1946 is given below:

Food grains from other Provinces:	*Tons.*	*Food grains from abroad:*	*Tons.*
Rice:—		*Rice:—*	
From Sind	63,666	...	...
„ Tanjore	9,377	...	...
„ Central Provinces	9,679	...	...
Wheat:—		*Wheat:—*	
From Navanagar	266	...	10,783

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

Wheat flour :— 100

Other food grains:

Moth dhall from Sind 200 ... ...

(The quantities shown are actual receipts.)

(*b*) The quantity of food grains expected to arrive from the 1st of July :—

Food grains from other Provinces :—	*Tons.*	*Food grains from abroad.* *Tons.*
	Rice :—	
From Sind	21,464	
„ Tanjore	9,613	30,970
„ Punjab	7,500	
„ Central Provinces	7,321	
	Wheat :—	
From Sind	4,000	16,682
	Moong :	
„ Hyderabad	5,800	Wheat flour 1,000
„ Bahawalpur	2,000	American Corn 6,000
	Urid :—	
„ Hyderabad	2,500	... ...
„ Sind	1,000	... ...

The rice and pulses now allotted to the State fall under the Kharif Plan of the Government of India and is in force from the 1st November 1945 to the 31st October 1946. Similarly wheat, barley and gram fall under the Rabi Plan which operates from 1st May 1946 to 30th April 1947. The figures furnished under *(b)* represent the allotments made by the Government of India till the 15th of July 1946. Further allotments will be made as and when surpluses are declared from the supplying areas, and it is expected that additional allotments will be made to the State in due course.

Purchase of paddy at the settlement rate.

137. *MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: Will the Government be pleased to state what induced the Government to entrust proverthicars with the work of purchasing paddy at the settlement rate, while merchants authorised by Government to do that work were already engaged in the collection?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The purchase of local paddy through the agency of merchants (in 1121) was found to be unsuccessful and the quantity procured was very much less than what was obtained through Government agencies during the corresponding periods in previous years. The food situation having become extremely critical and the grains allotted to the State from outside being quite insufficient to meet its requirements, the procurement of the maximum possible quantity of local paddy became imperative. Government therefore decided to restore the old system of direct procurement through the Proverthicars.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly